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# Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 DHA-02 PRS-01 USIA-06 PA-01
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ORM-02 NEA-10 H-01 /045 W
----------090610Z 124619 /14
R 081234Z APR 77
FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3065
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, UR
SUBJ: PASSOVER IN LENINGRAD

REF: MOSCOW 4466

1. PASSOVER THIS YEAR APPEARS TO HAVE GONE WITHOUT ANY MAJOR HITCHES, ALTHOUGH A SOURCE WHO ATTEMPTED TO ATTEND FIRST EVENING SERVICES REPORTS THAT AT 6:00 P.M., WHICH IS TRADITIONALLY TAKEN IN LENINGRAD AS THE TIME TO BEGIN THE SUNDOWN SERVICE, SYNAGOGUE AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCED THAT THE SERVICE WOULD BE DELAYED UNTIL 8:30 P.M. AS A RESULT, THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF CONFUSION INVOLVING PEOPLE COMING TO ATTEND THE SERVICE AND THEN LEAVING IN FRUSTRATION. THE EVER SUSPICIOUS LENINGRAD REFUSENIK COMMUNITY, WHICH BY AND LARGE IS NOT HIGHLY ACTIVE IN THE SYNAGOGUE, TENDS TO BELIEVE THAT THE DELAY IN SERVICES CAME AT THE BEHEST OF THE BOLSHOI DOM (KGB HEADQUARTERS) WITH WHOM THEY CONSIDER THE SYNAGOGUE AUTHORITIES ARE COOPERATING. AT ANY RATE, ANOTHER REFUSENIK SOURCE, WHO CONDUCTS THE BIBLE/ CULTURAL SYMPOSIUM AMONG THE REFUSENIKS, DID NOT EVEN ATTEMPT TO ATTEND.
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2. THE SOURCE REPORTS THAT THE UNIFORMED MILITIA PRESENCE WAS LIGHT BUT THAT THERE WERE MANY DRUZHINNIKI WHO WERE PROBABLY MILITIA MEN IN PLAIN CLOTHES. NO DISORDERS WERE REPORTED. SOURCE DID NOT REMAIN FOR THE SERVICE ITSELF.

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3. AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, MATZOHS WERE BAKED AND AVAILABLE IN LENINGRAD THIS YEAR.

4. LENINGRAD'S JEWS CERTAINLY SEEMED DETERMINED TO CELEBRATE THE FESTIVAL IN STYLE REGARDLESS OF PROBLEMS --WITNESS THE FOLLOWING STORY CURRENTLY GOING THE ROUNDS HERE. ON MONDAY EVENING A GROUP OF ABOUT 100 JEWS, INCLUDING SOME VISITING FOREIGNERS WHO HAD MADE RESERVATIONS AT THE NEW SOVREMENNIK RESTAURANT, WERE TOLD UPON ARRIVAL, BY UNIFORMED MILITIA MEN AT THE DOOR, THAT THE RESTAURANT WAS CLOSED FOR INTERNAL AUDIT. THIS, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY HAD PAID SOME 800 RUBLES IN ADVANCE. UNDAUNTED, THE INTREPID PARTY THEN TROOPED OFF TO THE RESTAURANT OF THE OKTYABRSKAYA HOTEL WHERE THE FOREIGNERS GOT THE GROUP ADMITTED AS THEIR GUESTS. THE GROUP, IN FESTIVE SPIRIT, PREVAILED UPON THE RELUCTANT BAND TO PLAY JEWISH SONGS. AFTER A SHORT WHILE THE BAND WAS THEN PULLED OFF THE FLOOR. THE IRREPRESSIBLE GROUP THEN PROCEEDED TO BURST INTO SONG A CAPPELLA. A GROUP OF HUNGARIANS PRESENT IN THE HOTEL, TAKING THIS FOR A POLITICAL DEMONSTRATION, BURST INTO NATIONALIST HUNGARIAN SONGS OF THEIR OWN. BY THIS TIME, A FRANTIC MANAGER, UNABLE ANY LONGER TO KEEP THE LID ON, CLOSED THE JOINT AT THE UNACCUSTOMEDLY EARLY HOUR OF 10:00 P.M.
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# Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
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**Disposition Event:**
**Disposition History:** n/a
**Disposition Reason:**
**Disposition Remarks:**
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**Enclosure:** n/a
**Executive Order:** N/A
**Errors:** N/A
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**Subject:** PASSOVER IN LENINGRAD
**TAGS:** PFOR, SCUL, UR
**To:** STATE
**Type:** TE
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**Review Markings:**
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